Lovely Strange Dark

ULTRABAROQUE DEPROGRAMMER

BY ITOU SEIKOU & ASADA TORAO

CHAPTER 16

Scans & translations: Kalendel
Raw preps: Ren
Editing: Ximena
QC: Ianu

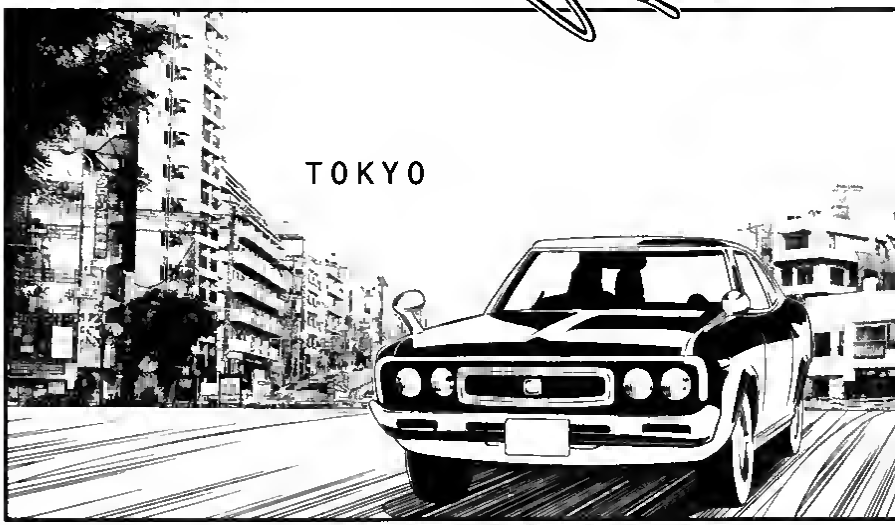
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

tap
tap
tap
tap
PROTEC-
TOR!
SCREEE

YOU MADE IT! THIS WAY!
GET IN!
PANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG

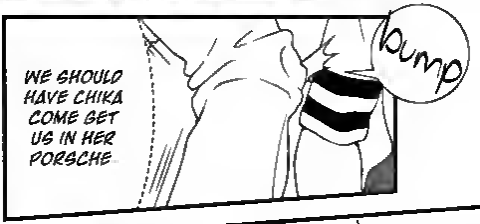
CHAPTER 16 ● MULTIPLE PSY MATRIX 5

VROOO


TOKYO

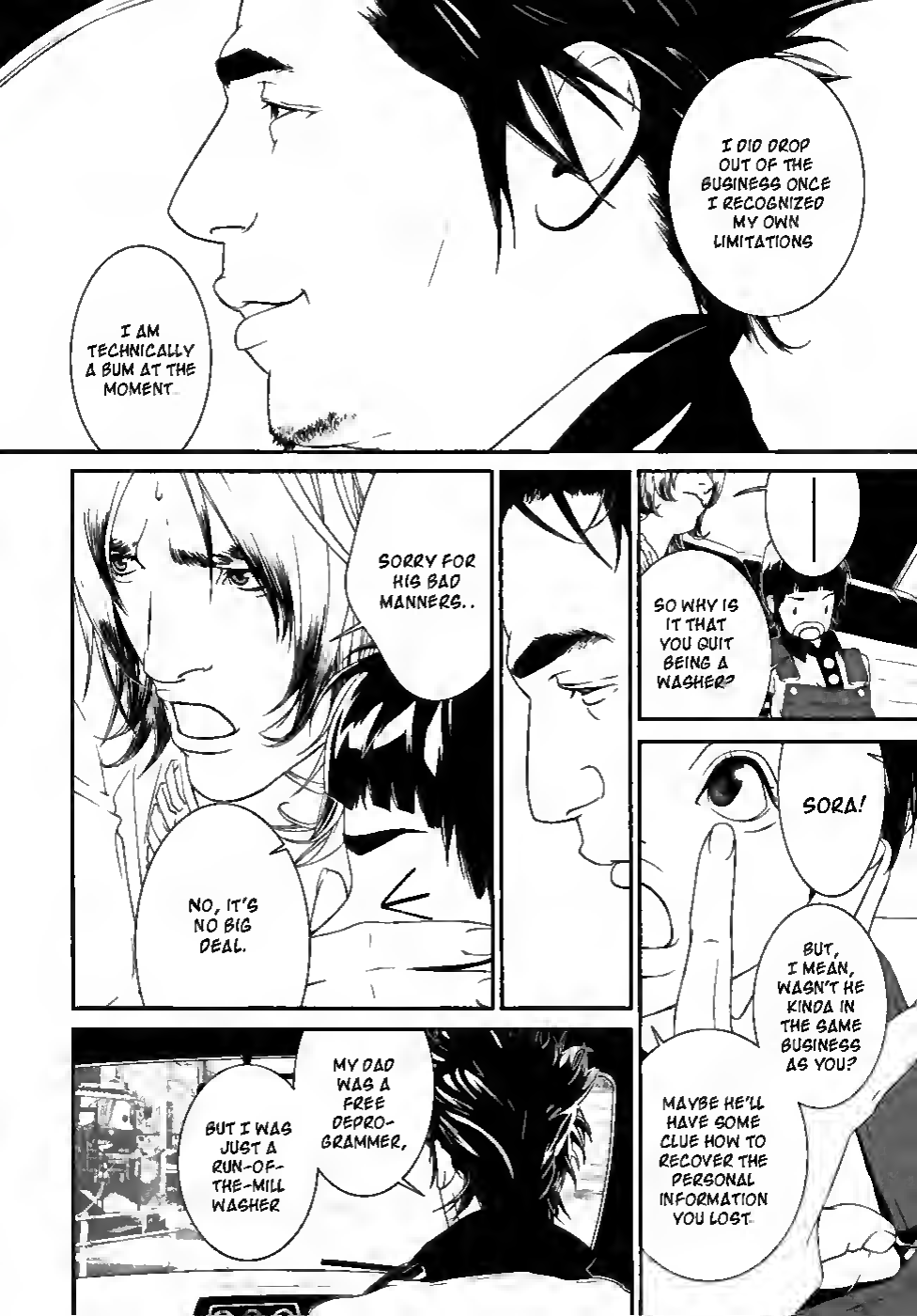
*Tatehara

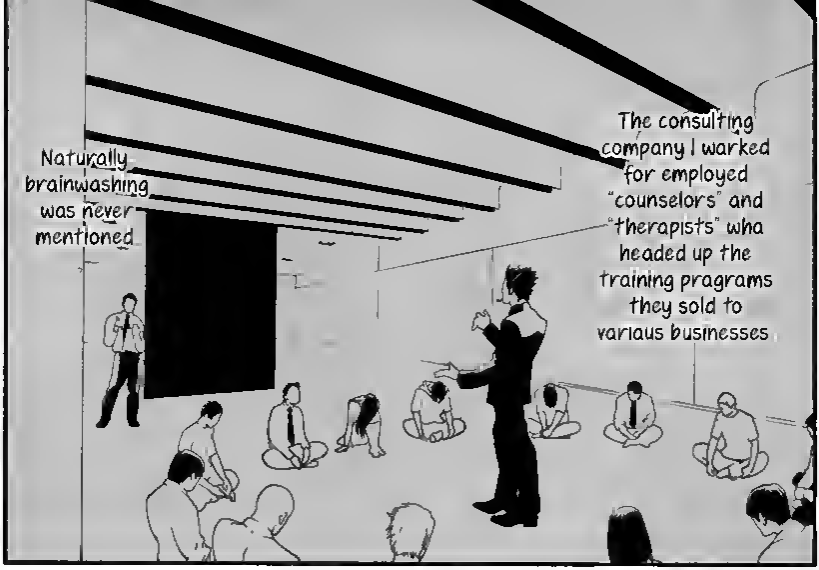
EARLIER
STOP!
YOU CAN'T RING THE BELL AT 4 AM!

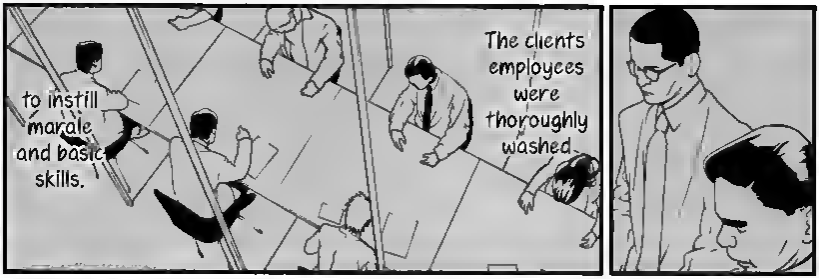

WE SHOULD HAVE CHIKA COME GET US IN HER PORSCHE
bump

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE MAKING YUUZOU DRIVE
CHIKA HAD TO GO TO WORK! SHE DIDN'T EVEN GET TO SLEEP!
QUIT YOUR WHINING!

C'MON, GO GET READY!
YOU CAN COLLAPSE AFTER I DRIVE YOU TO TATEHARA'S HOUSE.
HEY!
DON'T SLEEP IN MY FOYER!
I'VE GOTTA LEAVE TONIGHT, TOO.
WHAT, YOU CAN'T TAKE MORE TIME OFF?
THE PEOPLE WHO GASSED US ARE AT THAT HOSPITAL, AND YOU'RE JUST SKIPPING STRAIGHT BACK THERE?
YOU SURE TALK BIG FOR SOME NAMELESS BUM!
YOU LITTLE BRAT~
BUM? YOU TALKING ABOUT ME?
OF COURSE NOT!
NO! NO! NO! NO!
WELL,


I AM TECHNICALLY A BUM AT THE MOMENT...
I DID DROP OUT OF THE BUSINESS ONCE I RECOGNIZED MY OWN LIMITATIONS
SORRY FOR HIS BAD MANNERS..
NO, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
SO WHY IS IT THAT YOU QUIT BEING A WASHER?
SORA!
BUT, I MEAN, WASN'T HE KINDA IN THE SAME BUSINESS AS YOU?
MAYBE HE'LL HAVE SOME CLUE HOW TO RECOVER THE PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU LOST.
MY DAD WAS A FREE DEPRO-GRAMMER,
BUT I WAS JUST A RUN-OF-THE-MILL WASHER


Naturally brainwashing was never mentioned
The consulting company I warked for employed "counselors" and "therapists" wha headed up the training pragrams they sold to variaus businesses


to instill marale and basic skills.
The clients employees were thoroughly washed

HE'S SERIOUSLY NOT AN ELITE ANYTHING !!!
I—I DON'T THINK I WAS LIKE THAT..
BUT!
Elite depragrammers like you
must look dawn an that sort af thing

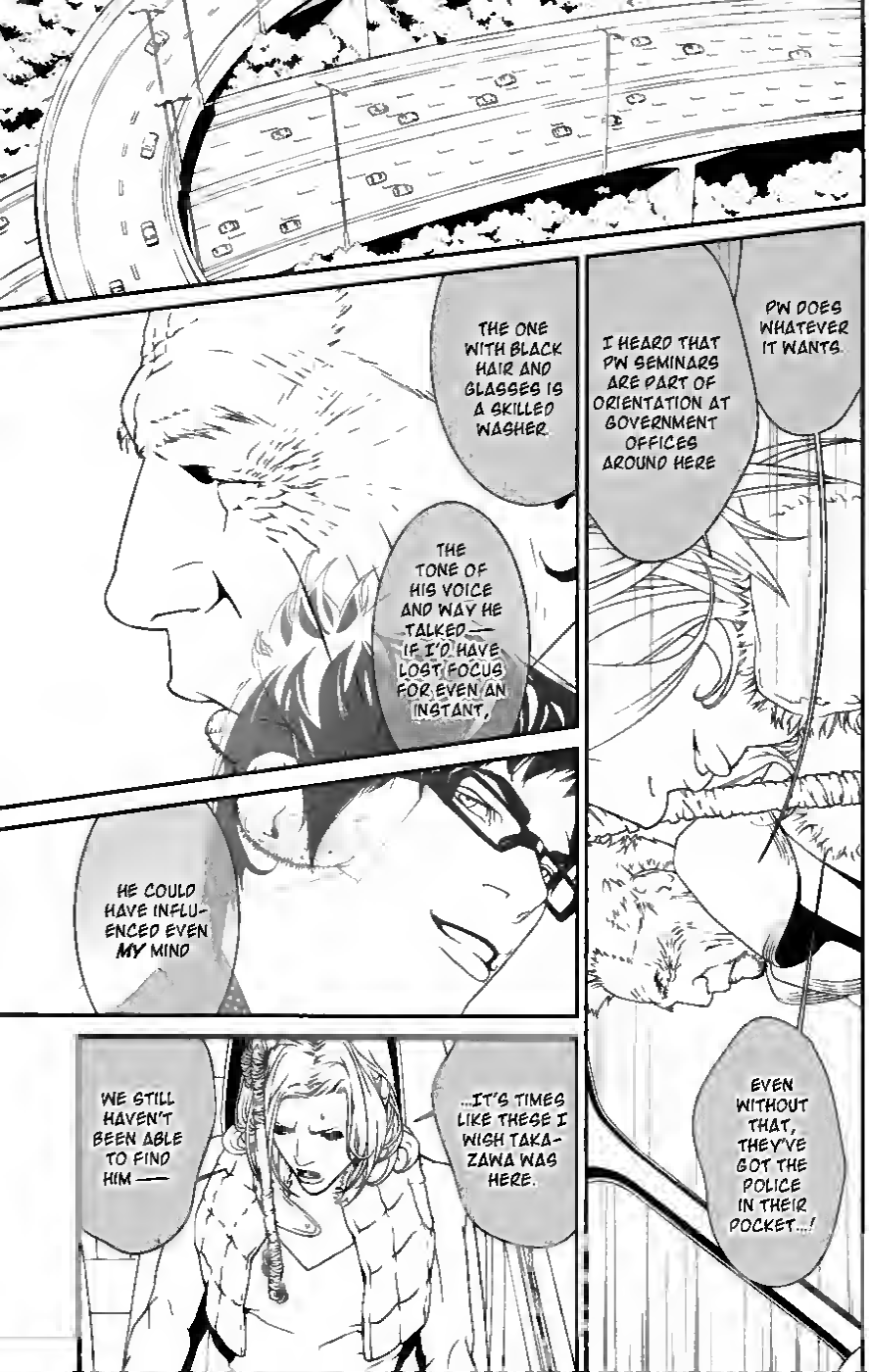
KROOO
IF ANYTHING, YOUR DAD AND I WOULD'VE BEEN PROUD JUST TO HAVE BECOME DEPROGRAMMERS.
THOSE ARE JUST THE TERMS THAT WASHERS USE THERE'S NO SIGNIFICANCE TO IT, NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIGHS AND LOWS
I WAS ACTUALLY
ASKED TO DEPROGRAM SOMEONE ONCE

IF I'M STAYING HERE TO CLEAN UP THIS MESS,
THEY'VE GOT GUNS!
SOME-ONE'S BEEN SHOT!
ISN'T SOMEONE GOING TO FOLLOW RICHART AND CHASE DOWN THE PRO-TECTOR?
DALLAS, TEXAS
AND MAKE SURE RICHART UNDERSTANDS
THAT WE WANT THE PROTECTOR ALIVE!
W—WE'RE ON IT!

PUSH
THUD
GET IN, PROTECTOR!
SCREEEE
SSSS
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!
DON'T, YOU'LL HIT THE PRO-TECTOR...!
HIS EYES AREN'T SO GREAT EITHER, SO HE TENDS TO OVERDO THINGS.

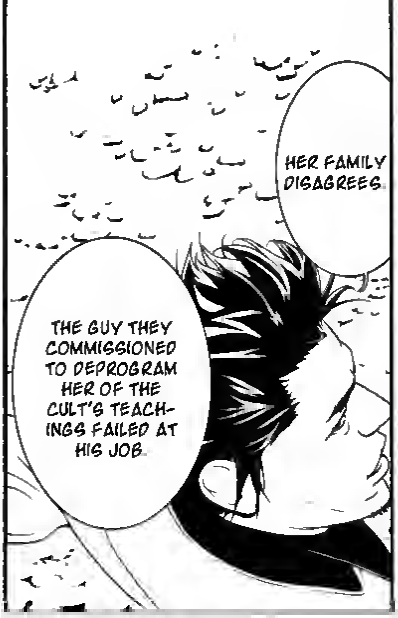
SO WASHERS CAN DEPROGRAM TOO?
HER PARENTS WANTED MY DAD TO DO IT, BUT HE WAS ON AN EXTENDED TRIP AT THE TIME
THE GIRL HAD GOTTEN WRAPPED UP IN A CULT.
Once she stopped looking and acting like she was brainwashed,
she went home.
Afterward the plan was
to take her to a recovery center where she'd be given a normal OS so she could function as a regular person.
It looked to me like it all went perfectly.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD TRAINING. YOU FIGURE THAT DEPROGRAMMING SHOULD JUST BE THE REVERSE OF WASHING.
THERE WAS SOME HUBRIS ON MY PART TOO, TO JUST GO FOR IT.
NOT LONG AFTER THAT,
Like rehab.
In reality, it's a messy process.
They said they'd do a reinstall so she could at least live a normal life.
OS? SO, LIKE A COMPUTER.
Her mind was an empty white space after her beliefs and personality were dismantled.
THE DEPROGRAMMING WORKED

I FOUND OUT THAT SHE'D DIED.


PW DOES WHATEVER IT WANTS.
I HEARD THAT PW SEMINARS ARE PART OF ORIENTATION AT GOVERNMENT OFFICES AROUND HERE
THE ONE WITH BLACK HAIR AND GLASSES IS A SKILLED WASHER.
THE TONE OF HIS VOICE AND WAY HE TALKED —— IF I'D HAVE LOST FOCUS FOR EVEN AN INSTANT,
HE COULD HAVE INFLUENCED EVEN MY MIND
EVEN WITHOUT THAT, THEY'VE GOT THE POLICE IN THEIR POCKET...!
...IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE I WISH TAKAZAWA WAS HERE.
WE STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND HIM ——

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT HIM. HE MIGHT BE LYING LOW SOMEWHERE.
THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM WAS AT LA MECA.
HE WANTED ME TO PUT AN EXTREMELY STRONG PROTECTION IN HIS MIND FOR SOME REASON.
THE ONE IN CALIFORNIA.
I DON'T THINK HE'S THE TYPE OF GUY WHO'D GET TAKEN DOWN THAT EASILY.
DO YOU THINK PW WAS AFTER HIM?
THAT'S IT? HE THINKS OF YOU LIKE A FATHER...

Her cult believed that this world was coming to an end, and they could be reborn on another planet.
They all killed themselves.
HOW DID THAT GIRL DIE?
THOSE VERY FEET THAT I DEPRO-GRAMMED
TOOK HER BACK TO THE CULT SHE WAS IN BEFORE


HER FAMILY DISAGREES.
THE GUY THEY COMMISSIONED TO DEPROGRAM HER OF THE CULT'S TEACHINGS FAILED AT HIS JOB.

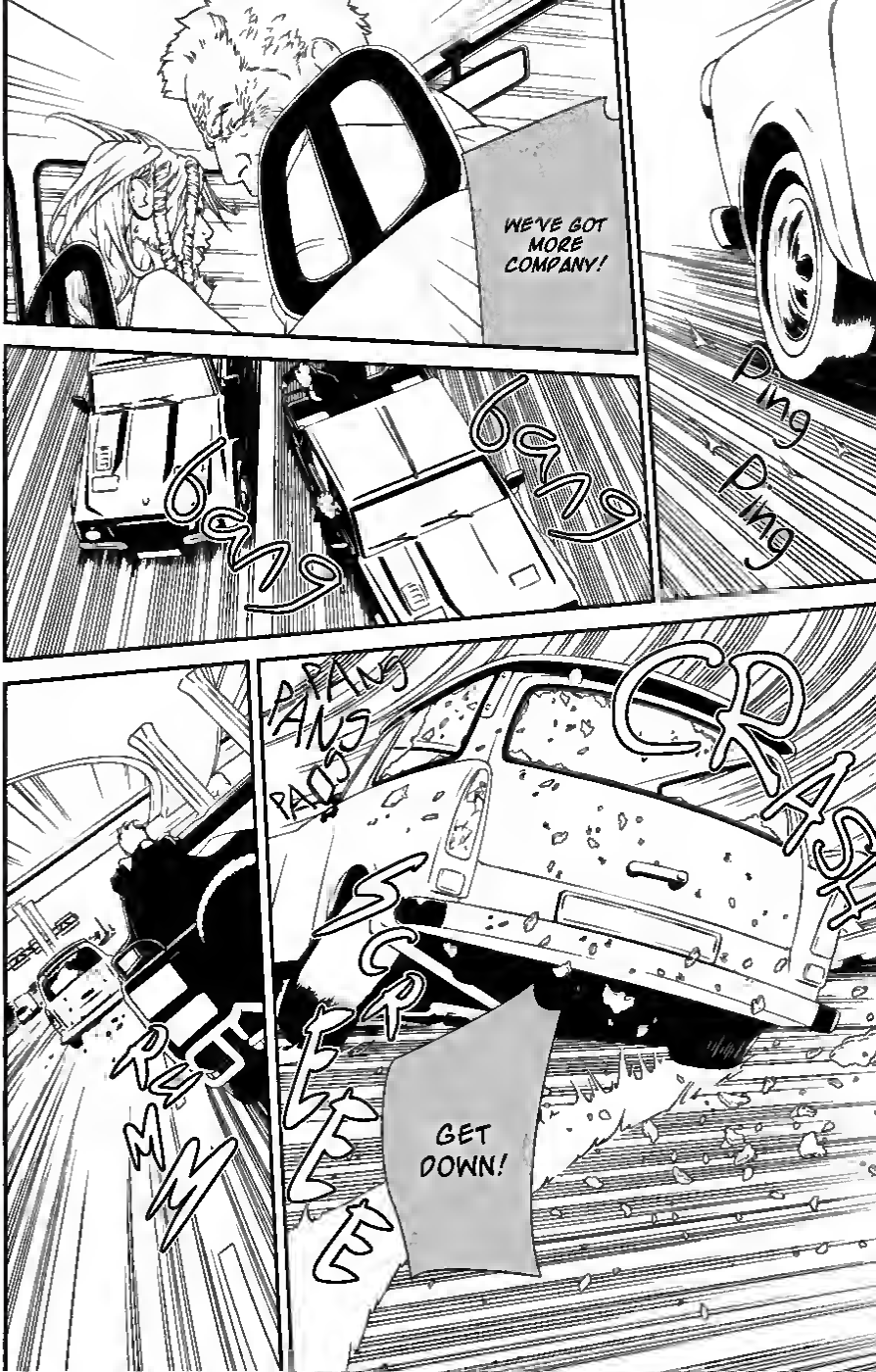
YUUZOU,
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT THAT SHE DIED.

THAT'S ALL THEY KNOW.

I'd been doing pretty well dabbling in this and that.
but I hadn't understood the pain my job caused.

I was already tired of dealing with people's minds.

I'D SIMPLY ASSUMED THAT I KNEW WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE PEOPLE THAT I WASHED.


WE'VE GOT MORE COMPANY!
Ping Ping
Bang Bang
PAAN PAAN PAAN
CRASH
SCREEEE
GET DOWN!
RRRRR

VRM
H... HEY!
STOP THE CAR!
ARE THEY!?

SCREECH
SCREECH
RUSH
WHAM
CRASH
...!
Ugh

TINK
tap
tap
tap
flick
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO HYPNOTIZE ME, THERE'S NO USE.
OH.
.....

MY EARS ARE NO GOOD. UNLESS THIS IS TURNED ON,
I CAN'T HEAR A THING.